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Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Ms. Denise McQuade (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.33

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000, and recalling also its resolutions 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005 and 62/197 of 19 December 2007 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Reiterating the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[2] and of Agenda 21,[3] and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[4] concerning energy for sustainable development,

Recalling with appreciation the Interactive Thematic Dialogue of the United Nations General Assembly on "Energy Efficiency, Energy Conservation and New and Renewable Sources of Energy" held on 18 June 2009 and its contribution to the intergovernmental dialogue on energy issues,

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

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Welcoming the political impetus recently given to the development of new and renewable sources of energy worldwide, including, in particular in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition,

Welcoming also the offer of the Government of India to host the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference from 27 to 29 October 2010,

Welcoming further initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that the development of new and renewable energy plays a significant role in the diversification of the energy mix, achieving greater energy efficiency, supporting and accelerating economic growth and social development, creating employment opportunities, ensuring energy access and availability, promoting energy cooperation, rendering environmental benefits, thus contributing to achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms, could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging that increased use of new and renewable sources of energy could offer increased access to modern energy services,

Noting that, in addition to increasing the efficiency of energy production and use, expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy and advanced clean energy technology offers options that could improve global and local environmental conditions,

Recognizing that the current share of new and renewable energy in the global energy supply is still low, which is due, among other factors, to the high costs of many renewable energy technologies, particularly in their development phase, and underlining the critical contribution that a rapid reduction in these costs could make to the promotion of such technologies,

Recognizing the contributions of new and renewable sources of energy to the reduction of greenhouse gases and addressing climate change, which poses serious risks and challenges,

Noting that the global demand for energy continues to rise, while recognizing that the share of energy derived from new and renewable resources remains considerably below its significant potential despite recent increase, and underscoring in this regard the need to continue to tap new and renewable sources of energy,

Emphasizing the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources, of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of advanced technology to developing countries and countries

with economies in transition for providing efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels for investment and sustained financing,

Acknowledging that the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council continue to play a pivotal role as forums for the discussion of new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

Welcoming efforts by Governments and institutions that have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, and recognizing the contributions of regional initiatives, institutions and regional economic commissions in supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in this respect,

Noting with appreciation the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which aims at promoting the diffusion and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy,

Noting also with appreciation regional mechanisms and initiatives for energy cooperation and integration to encourage the use of new and renewable sources of energy such as, inter alia, the Petrocaribe Alternative Energy Source Financing Fund, the Mesoamerican integration and development project, the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development energy initiative, the Mediterranean Solar Plan, the Africa-EU Energy Partnership, the Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation, and the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate,

Noting with concern that millions of poor people are unable to afford to pay for modern energy services, even when those services are available,

Emphasizing the need to address the challenge of access to and affordability of modern energy services for all, in particular the poor,

Emphasizing also the need to promote an enabling environment for the promotion and use of new and renewable energy, including through the removal of obstacles at all levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Stresses* the urgent need to continue to increase the share of new and renewable energy in the global energy mix;

3. *Reaffirms* the need for the full implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as the intergovernmental framework for sustainable development;[4]

4. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services

[5] A/64/277.

and resources for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

5. *Encourages* the development of viable market-oriented strategies that could result in the most rapid reduction of the cost of new and renewable energy and increase the competitiveness of those technologies, including through the adoption, as appropriate, of public polices for research, development and market deployment;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development, in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of Governments and all other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, including the private sector, civil society and international organizations, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts;

7. *Encourages* efforts by Governments aimed at creating and developing an enabling environment at all levels to ensure the promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy;

8. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

9. *Encourages* global, regional and national initiatives on new and renewable energies to promote access to energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, for the poorest and to improve energy efficiency and conservation by resorting to a mix of available technologies, taking fully into account the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning energy for sustainable development;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of some Member States to establish national voluntary new and renewable energy and energy efficiency targets, and encourages others to do the same;

11. *Encourages* Member States to make greater use of effective policy tools such as voluntary national, subnational or regional goals, programmes and targets, as appropriate, to increase access to energy, energy efficiency and the share of renewable energies;

12. *Calls upon* Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the African countries in promoting the development, production and use of new and renewable sources of energy, recognizing the special needs of Africa for reliable and affordable energy supplies and services;

14. *Also calls upon* the international community to support the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries, the small island

developing States in their efforts to develop and utilize new and renewable energy, inter alia, through financial and technical assistance and capacity-building;

15. *Reiterates its call* for all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas;

16. *Notes and encourages* ongoing activities related to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system, and acknowledges the role of UN-Energy in promoting system-wide collaboration in the area of energy;

17. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and of the increased role they can play in the global energy supply, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

18. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of financial resources, in a stable and predictable manner, and technical assistance, and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy;

19. *Stresses* that the wider use and exploration of available and additional new and renewable sources of energy require technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution taking into account, inter alia, the initiatives taken by Member States and international organizations to create an enabling environment at all levels for the promotion and use of new and renewable energy, including measures to improve access to such technologies;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy".